



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF TEXAS**

May 15, 1990

**JIM MATTOX  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Honorable George Pierce  
Chairman  
Committee on Urban Affairs  
House of Representatives  
P. O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78769-2910

LO-90-24

Dear Mr. Pierce:

You ask whether a San Antonio park ranger is a "police officer" under chapter 142 of the Local Government Code. Chapter 142 concerns benefits and working conditions of designated municipal officials and employees in certain municipalities. Positions covered include "a member of a fire or police department."

Chapter 142, as amended by Senate Bill 603, Acts 1989, 71st Legislature, chapter 92, section 2, at 420, adds section 142.010 defining "member of the police department" as follows:

(b) In this chapter, 'member of the police department' means an employee of the police department who has been licensed as a peace officer by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education.  
(Emphasis added.)

The terms "members of the police department" and "police officers" appear to be used interchangeably in chapter 142. You advise that San Antonio park rangers are employed by the San Antonio Parks Department. Consequently, a San Antonio park ranger is not a "police officer" under chapter 142.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom G. Davis", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom G. Davis  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion Committee

APPROVED: Rick Gilpin, Chairman  
Opinion Committee

Sarah Woelk, Chief  
Letter Opinion Section

TGD/mc

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